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5-15-1999

# Montana State University Commencement (2)

Max S. Baucus

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Indexing Form

Senator \* or Department\*: **BAUCUS**

Instructions:

Prepare one form for insertion at the beginning of each record series.

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Record Type\*: **Speeches & Remarks**

MONTH/YEAR of Records\*: **May-1999**

(Example: JANUARY-2003)

(1) Subject\*: **MSU Commencement Address**

(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

(2) Subject\* **none**

DOCUMENT DATE\*: **05/15/1999**

(Example: 01/12/1966)

\* "required information"



Remarks by Senator Max Baucus

Montana State University Commencement

SLOWLY

HAVE  
Fun!

Thank you President Malone for that kind  
introduction. | Day in and day out, | you are not only  
writing the history of Montana, | you are helping to  
shape it. | And, thank you | to your fine faculty | for all  
you do | to help mold our students' future.

I would also like to say congratulations to Doctor  
Hughes, | Doctor Donohue, | and Doctor Feaver. | Each of  
you - | in your own way | represents the finest traditions  
of service to the nation and our community. | And we  
thank you for all you have done.

Above all else | I want to congratulate the class of  
1999. | I know that getting here wasn't always easy. |

There were those doubters along the way who said  
they couldn't imagine you'd be graduating any time this  
century. | Well, you just made it.

Actually | not that anybody here could have  
possibly over slept | but let's make sure you all really  
did make it. | Is the College of Agriculture here?

A few of you made it.

Anybody here from the College of Arts and  
Architecture?

How about the College of Business?

The College of Education, Health and Human  
Development?

Let's try the College of Engineering.

How about the College of Letters and Science?

And I saved the best for last. | How about the  
College of Nursing?

Just wanted to make sure. | even though I know  
you all went to bed very early last night.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I've been asked to deliver  
the charge to the graduates. | For the parents who are  
with us today, I'm sure you don't feel left out. | I know  
that { over the last few years } you've already received  
your charge from MSU.

But I would like to speak directly to the graduates  
today - because today is your day. | You've come so  
far and accomplished so much. | And after all these  
years of school, I know the last thing you want is  
another lecture. | So ~~please~~ put away your pens and  
paper, you can stop taking notes.

I do have one piece of advice for you { and no } its  
not "wear sun screen." { But it does come from the  
words of another song. } The old Dickey Betts classic  
"Keep On Keepin' On." { My charge to you today } is to  
continue to act in the ways that have brought you -||  
and those who care about you so much } - to this special  
day.

What does that mean? { First of all, } it means you  
must continue to pursue your education. } Once there  
was a time when an MSU graduate could walk out of  
commencement with a quality education } and never  
have to look back. } Those days are gone.

The world has changed, and now lifelong learning is no longer an elective - it's mandatory for all those who want to succeed. A look at the story of MSU and the Bozeman area tells the tale.

When this school was established, it was named the "Agricultural College of the State of Montana."

~~Because it so exclusively emphasized farming, people called it the Cow College. Some <sup>ignorant people</sup> still do today.~~

IN 1913, as the Industrial Revolution was sweeping though the nation, the name was changed to the "State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts."

Today, the world around us is transforming once again.



Here, in what the Native Americans called the Valley of Flowers, the Information Age has started to bloom.

Fifteen years ago there were about a dozen high-tech companies in Gallatin County. Four years ago, there were 45. Today, there are 85.

And much of this new energy is anchored here at Montana State University. Working with NASA, MSU is researching advanced optoelectric material. And because this is such a fine institution of learning, I hope that later on somebody will explain to me, just what that means.

MSU holds 28 patents, with 62 more pending | a  
clear sign of the explosion of innovation | that makes  
this Silicon Valley | the home to both Mountains and  
Minds. | And it's no accident | that Bozeman is home to  
the American Computer Museum.

But all this change means that today can't be the  
end of your learning | - it must be only the beginning. |  
For you will need to constantly learn new skills | and  
gain new insights into the ever- expanding world of  
knowledge. | If you stop learning, | you will be letting a  
whole world of opportunities pass you by. | You'll be  
hibernating. | And we all know that only Grizzlies do  
that.

And I believe that you should have a government  
that helps you do the right thing. Once, we had  
visionary leaders who knew that a college education  
would bring a chance for success to everyone who was  
willing to work for it. Through the land grant college  
initiative, they built schools for those who needed them  
- including Montana State University. I think we need  
to apply that same spirit to today's challenges. ~~That's~~

why the "Corps of Discovery" education agenda, which  
I announced earlier this year, includes extending the  
Lifetime Learning Tax Credit to include employer  
contributions - making it easier for you to continue the  
great start you already have.

"Keep on Keepin' On" also means that I hope you'll  
continue the tradition of community service that so  
many of you have started through your volunteer  
activities in the Gallatin Valley community. Breaks  
Away service trips, Into the Streets, the Simple Meals  
program, or working with the Humane Society, Big  
Brothers and Big Sisters, or Head Start. You have  
shown commitment -- a commitment to the ideal that  
we all owe a helping hand to one another and have  
obligations that come with our opportunities. I know  
that in the years to come you will continue and  
strengthen your service to family, service to church,  
and service to community.

A few years back | a Bozeman resident named  
Frank Cooper went to Hollywood | changed his first  
name to Gary | and starred in a movie called "High  
Noon." | Today | as all of you are in the high noon of  
your lives | I hope you won't forget to share some of  
that bright sunlight | with those at the dawn and dusk of  
theirs | They need your help | and we all know it's the  
right thing to do.

And lastly | "Keep on Keepin' On" | means you  
should never lose the spirit of excitement and optimism  
that you can feel rippling through this crowd today.

The writer, historian, and conservationist Wallace  
Stegner { in whose honor a Chair in Western Studies  
has been established at MSU { once wrote that "Youth  
hasn't got anything to do with chronological age." It's  
times of hope and happiness." { Setting out onto your  
adult lives { doesn't mean leaving those times behind { in  
fact, it means holding onto them tighter than ever  
before.

In 1893, { this school had 8 students. } Today, it has  
over 11,000. { You come from all 50 states { and over 60  
foreign countries. } And you come not just because of  
Bozeman's altitude { but because of MSU's attitude { a  
can-do spirit { that exemplifies the best of the West.

~~It's that spirit that you must never lose. | You may  
have spent a lot of time in the last few years up at  
Bridger, <sup>AND</sup> ~~but~~ with that spirit, I'm sure you will be  
climbing to even greater heights.~~

This can-do spirit | is what led a young man by the  
name of John Bozeman | not much older than you | to  
leave the comfort of his native home | and blaze the trail  
that bears his name. | Almost 60 years earlier, | it was  
through what we now call the Bozeman Pass | that  
Lewis and Clark's men | emerged from the mountains on  
the way back from their historic journey.

Two hundred years later, we commemorate the  
journey of Merriwether Lewis and William Clark. We  
talk about their discoveries and their legacy, their  
scientific contributions and their geopolitical  
significance. But today let's remember them as two  
young people with a dream and a determination to  
make it into a reality.

Today, for you and your parents, the dream of a  
college education becomes a reality. And you leave  
MSU with more than a diploma. You leave with  
memories of friends activities, and yes, even your  
classes.



Years from now | you'll remember buying cookies from  
the Sweet Shop in the SUB, | the afternoons spent  
skiing, | life's lessons you learned the hard way.

You'll remember heading to Joe's Parkway on  
Friday night | to start off the weekend by picking up a  
keg -- of root beer.

You'll wish you still had the "Ask us desk" | to call  
when you're in a tight spot. | And you'll bolt up in the  
middle of the night, | finally remembering where you left  
your "One Card."

You'll wonder whether you should take it  
personally | that they started all the construction when  
you got here | and finished now that you're leaving. |  
And you'll wonder where those benches on the mall  
went for the winter.

But what I hope you'll remember most of all | is that  
you set a goal | and met it. | If you "Keep On Keepin'  
On" with that routine, | there is literally nothing you  
can't do.

In a few moments the choir will lead us in "Hail  
Montana State." | As the song says:

When years have drawn us far away,

Memories shall keep today,

We'll gladly owe to MSU,

What we are and hope to be.

I hope that your memories do keep you returning to  
today and all your days at MSU. And on behalf of your  
parents teachers loved ones and friends I  
congratulate you for what you are and what we all  
hope you will be. Continue to make us proud.